



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
02.11.2000 Bulletin 2000/44

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04N 9/64, H04N 9/04**

(43) Date of publication A2:
05.01.2000 Bulletin 2000/01

(21) Application number: **99305141.6**

(22) Date of filing: **30.06.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **03.07.1998 JP 20443898**

(71) Applicants:
• **TADAHIRO OHMI**
Sendai-shi, Miyagi-ken (JP)
• **CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• **Ohmi, Tadaihiro**
Sendai-shi, Miyagi-ken (JP)
• **Sugawa, Shigetoshi,**
c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha
Tokyo (JP)

- **Ueno, Isamu, c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha**
Tokyo (JP)
- **Nakayama, Takahiro**
Miyagi-ken (JP)
- **Ogawa, Katsuhisa, c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha**
Tokyo (JP)
- **Morimoto, Tatsuro**
Miyagi-ken (JP)
- **Sakurai, Katsuhito, c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha**
Tokyo (JP)
- **Koizumi, Toru, c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha**
Tokyo (JP)
- **Kochi, Tetsunobu, c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha**
Tokyo (JP)

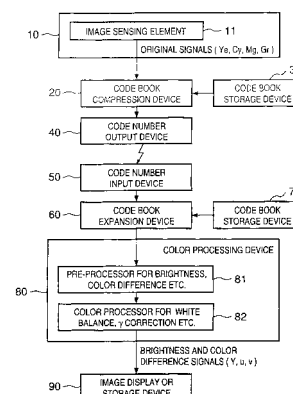
(74) Representative:
Beresford, Keith Denis Lewis et al
BERESFORD & Co.
High Holborn
2-5 Warwick Court
London WC1R 5DJ (GB)

(54) **Image signal processing method, image signal processing system, storage medium, and image sensing apparatus**

(57) AN image signal processing method and system, which can greatly reduce the data size upon transmitting an image signal or storing the signal in a storage medium, and can obtain a high-quality image by preventing image quality after color processing from deteriorating. According to the method for processing an image signal output from an image sensing element, a compression step of compressing the image signal and an expansion step of expanding the compressed image signal are executed without executing color processing for executing at least white balance correction or γ correction, and the color processing is executed after completion of the compression and expansion steps, thereby preventing occurrence of block noise and high-frequency noise associated with compressing/expanding image data after the color processing of the image sig-

nal.

FIG. 1





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 5141

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X,P	US 5 818 525 A (ELABD HAMMAM) 6 October 1998 (1998-10-06) * column 1, line 50 - column 2, line 11 * * column 6, line 47 - line 67 * * figures 1-4 * * column 4, line 1 - line 64; figure 7 * ---	1-17	H04N9/64 H04N9/04
X	US 5 172 227 A (RABBANI MAJID ET AL) 15 December 1992 (1992-12-15) * column 3, line 42 - column 4, line 23 * -----	1-17	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 8 September 2000	Examiner Raeymaekers, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 30 5141

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

08-09-2000

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5818525 A	06-10-1998	NONE	
US 5172227 A	15-12-1992	DE 69120661 D	08-08-1996
		DE 69120661 T	20-02-1997
		EP 0514535 A	25-11-1992
		JP 5505084 T	29-07-1993
		WO 9210911 A	25-06-1992

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82